Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC SEPTEMBER 2009

Bill Perkins KB4KFT to carry the torch another year

Although Bill KB4KFT was hoping that another club member would step forward to run for president, if nothing else but to provide for a debate on the direction of the club, he was excited to run again. Bill was re-elected along with the current list of officers at the August meeting with a unanimous round of applause and pledged to carry on with current trends in the club.

Perkins promised to continue to grow the club - expressing an interest in capitalizing on energy directed towards the current theme of "playing with radios." The newly re-elected president indicated that more opportunities to set up radios and operate like what has occurred out at Tanyard Creek Park would be in store. Also, Bill KB4KFT stated he would like to see the club take over lions share of organizing and conducting the Second Sunday Tech Session which is held at Peachtree Dekalb Airport.

Also re-elected at the August meeting were Rob Osattin, KI4UTY, Vice President; George Lane KI4DSO, Secretary; Bert Bruner, KE4FOV, Treasurer; and Chris Fowler, KI4YMD, Director.

Although the task of simplifying the club by-laws has already been completed, Bill would like to see members of the club continue to take on a larger role of communicating to the board what they would like to see happening in the club as well as agreeing to help organizing events. If you have any questions or suggestion Bill can be reached via email, kb4kft@atlantaradioclub.org

Newton White K0NWT *works traffic on 20M and 40M at a Special Event Station during a recent visit of a fully restored DC-3 to Lawrenceville's Briscoe Field. Jim Reed N4BFR assisted Newton with logging contacts.*

Get Ready for the Upcoming ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party

September is here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party is a great place to start."

With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said. "Getting on the VHF bands is simple, he said. You need a ra-

(Continued on page 4)

South Fulton ARES Update

News from South Fulton ARES has been a little slow in recent weeks. "Right now there is not much activity going on with ARES. Due to a staff change over at the Atlanta-Fulton EMA we have lost our contact there. Our only firm working relationship is currently with Piedmont Hospital" commented Ryan Ingoglia K5NRP. Ryan also said that he decided to switch hosting services for the SFARES website and ended up having to create the site from scratch. As of this posting the basic information is on there and more will be coming.

You can follow happening s with South Fulton ARES at www.southfultonares.org.

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KI4KGK creating boxes for many uses

Our own Billy Christensen KI4KGK has been fabricating metal for years. Now he's turning a hobby/skill into a box which can be used for enclosing kits like those constructed by QRPers. Billy KI4KGK cays he can do custom work of any size for a fee, but that he's presently shopping his standard box to those in the QRP community.

A standard metal enclosure for electronic kit measures 4"w x 5"d x 1 and1/2"h and is made of 26 gauge galvanized steel sheet metal. It includes 2 s/s screws and 4 self adhesive rubber feet and comes with a removable plastic sheet for shipping.

For these and other items, Billy is currently selling his boxes on ebay….

You'll have to contact him for any custom work.

http://myworld.ebay.com/buddget/

Local pick-up is also available if you don't want to pay for shipping.

Georgia 10-10 Chapter celebrates 1 year anniversary

August 25 2009 is exactly the 1 Year Anniversary of Ten-Ten International affiliation of the Margarita and Martini Chapter! Congratulations To K4JPC Bobby for building the Chapter from 5 or 6 members to 150! Great job Bobby, keep up the Good Work!!! May there be at least 300 MM members by next year on this day. The Atlanta Hamfest can't get here fast enough!

For more info or to join: http://home.comcast.net/~k4jpc/index.html

Repeater ettiquite, a rant on repeater usage... Submitted by Bill KB4KFT

Part II of a MultiPart Rant on Repeater Usage.

Last time I talked about people on the repeaters, habits, bad habits, and other characteristics. This morning I had an experience relating to that. I tried for at least ten minutes to get recognized by the three folks on a repeater. I'd key up and throw out my call sign and unkey to hear someone half a sentence into their turn. Quick keying we call that. It was mentioned in detail in Rant: Part 1.

This article is more about what to do once you get past the quick key barrier and get someone to hear you. If you are an old repeater hand this will seem simple, if you are a new ham this may be new for you.

I suspect there will be a few other Rants before someone tells me to shut up.

Round Table - a perfect circle with some odd quirks.

The most common type of repeater protocol around this part of the country is called "Round Table" - sometime

(Continued on page 7)

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Athens, GA
1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm
2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net
Cartersville, GA
1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591
Braselton, GA
1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or w9qo@arrl.net Fee $10
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC
Gainesville, GA
1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net
Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC
2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy.Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net
Peachtree City, GA
1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760
Snellville, GA
2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759
Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC
Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,
5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email:bvarone@juno.com
Marietta, GA CAVEC
Central America VEC
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Avenue
Contact: David Still WB4RRD
wb4rrd@gmail.com
Lawrenecville, GA
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge #131
465 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville, GA
Contact: Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV
kf4tqv@charter.net
Atlanta, GA
Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

Sunday Night Net: All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

3 Oct 2009
LaGrange Amateur Radio Club
http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org/LaGrange_Hamfest_Flyer_2009.pdf
Talk-In: 146.70(-) (PL 141.3)
1 November 2009
Alford Memorial Hamfest
Lawrenceville, GA
14 November 2009
Alabama State Convention - Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
http://www.w4ap.org **Talk-In:** 146.84 (no tone required)

Logic game about electricity

If you want to play a challenging online game that requires logical skills and some out of the box thinking, I recommend "Electric Box". The game presents you with a grid containing icons for 1) an power source, 2) a destination for the power, 3) several prepositioned wires and 4) some obstacles.

The goal is to add gadgets (generators, solar cells, light bulbs, lasers, etc) to the grid to create a Rube Goldberg like design that allows the power to get from the source to the destination.

The game consists of 15 levels, each of increasing difficulty.
Here's the url: www.candystand.com/play/electric-box

Have fun, Rob, KI4UTY

Vanity fees to increase

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase $1.10, from $12.30 to $13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of $341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at, http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1 .
NNNN
/EX

Source: W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL.

(Continued from page 1) **ARRL QSO Party**

dio that can transmit on both CW and SSB." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that your Maidenhead grid square is the common geographical information exchanged.

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site, in the Antennas chapter of *The ARRL Handbook*, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of *The ARRL Antenna Book*.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Many stations monitor this frequency to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency; if somebody answers, the stations will find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs.

Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or

(Continued on back cover)

W4DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)
145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B
1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D
D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)
145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B
1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

D-STAR! D-STAR!

No. It's not what Tattoo says when he looks up into the evening sky over Fantasy Island.

Bert Bruner
KE4FOV

D-Star is Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio.

Last month, I talked about how well D-STAR lends itself to conversation and how easy it is to see who is on other repeaters. This month, we'll go into more detail about how to actually make that connection with the other repeater.

But first, let's review some of the basics. D-STAR is digital. Even the modulation, GMSK (Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying) is completely digital. It can only transmit ones and zeros. This is the same modulation method used by the GSM wireless phone system.

Each D-STAR transmission has a header that includes the originating station's call sign known as MYCALL, some repeater routing information and the destination station's call sign, known as URCALL. In most cases, the destination is actually the string "CQCQCQ" which, of course, means any station. The repeater routing consists of two fields, RPT1 and RPT2. RPT1 is the call sign of the repeater you are using with a module designation in position 8. The standard module designations for voice are "A" for 1.2 GHz, "B" for 440 MHz and "C" for 2 meters. RPT2 generally is also the call sign of the repeater with a "G" in position 8. The "G" designates the Gateway module which is the repeater's connection to the Internet.

In the scenario I discussed last month, a ham first checks http://www.dstarusers.org and finds someone on a remote repeater to which he would like to talk. Let's assume for our discussion, that the local ham is on port "C" (2 meters) of the W4DOC D-STAR repeater in Atlanta and the remote user is on port "B" (440 MHz) of the WH6DIG D-STAR repeater in Honolulu.

The easiest way to do this is simply to link W4DOC port "C" to WH6DIG port "B". You do that by putting "WH6DIGBL" in URCALL and transmitting. Notice that the call sign, in this case, is 6 characters long, followed by "B" to indicate the 440 module and "L" which tells the repeater to link. If the call sign had been only 5 characters, there would be a space before the "B".

That's all there is to it. The repeater should respond with a voice message of "Remote system linked". Since the link stays up until someone takes it down, you should change URCALL back to "CQCQCQ". Then just carry on a conversation as you would if both parties were on the same repeater. Other than the repeater ID, whatever is transmitted by one repeater will also be transmitter by the other repeater.

When you are finished with your QSO, take the link back down by changing URCALL to ".....U" (7 blanks with "U" in position 8) and transmitting. The "U" of course means unlink. The repeater should respond with "Remote system unlinked." Don't forget to change URCALL back to "CQCQCQ". Now, what if you want to link to more than one repeater? For bandwidth reasons, each module can support only one link at a time. The solution is to use a Reflector.

You may be familiar with reflectors used by IRLP, Echolink or even email reflectors. A D-STAR reflector does exactly the same thing. Each repeater connects to the reflector and a transmission from one repeater is sent to the reflector where it is "reflected" back to all of the other connected repeaters.

This is often used for nets. For example, the Southeastern D-STAR Weather Net which meets on Reflector 2-A, Sunday nights at 9:00 PM Eastern Time does exactly this. It regularly has 35 or more repeaters and 70 or more stations. If you want to join this net from your local repeater, you would do it exactly the same way you link to a remote repeater. Just put "REF002AL" in URCALL and transmit.

Often repeaters are linked to reflectors to increase coverage. Many of the Atlanta repeaters are linked to a common reflector so that hams in different parts of the metro area can participate in a common roundtable and continue their QSOs while driving from one coverage area to another.

In a nutshell, that's how D-STAR linking works.

For more information, be sure to checkout http://www.dstarinfo.com and http://www.dstarusers.org.

Please also let me know what topics you'd like to see covered in future columns.

D-Star is Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio.

D-STAR News & Notes

Beta DVDongle Software Published - 15 August 2009
AA4RC has been hiding for a few weeks programming and his efforts are now being seen. DVTool, the software for the DVDongle has been rewritten to run natively on each supported platform, as opposed to running under Java. This has dramatically increased performance and is allowing the Netbook class of computers to run the software sucessfully. The software is still in beta, so there are a few bugs, but overall it is doing great!
Download: www.opendstar.org/tools/

DSTAR Info Newsletter Published - 15 August 2009
The second edition of the DSTAR Info Newsletter was published this weekend. A new feature to the newsletter is the D-STAR centerfold. While it was tempting to have Mark and/or Connie as our centerfold, this quarter we published the US Repeater listing, suitable for hanging on your wall.
Download: www.dstarinfo.com/Newsletter/default.html

Wire Gain Antennas for 6 Meters

Get some gain on 6 meters without investing in a beam and rotator!

Reprinted from Feb 2000 QST - W3RW

In August 1995 I came across an old Clegg Venus 6-meter SSB/CW transceiver (a 1960s vacuum-tube rig). After the radio had sat on my workbench for several months, I finally got around to fixing the previous owner's "design improvements." Soon thereafter, the Venus was on the air!

I had a great time in the 1996 January VHF Sweepstakes and enjoyed the sporadic-E season in the spring and summer of 1996. Until recently, however, I had been using a vertical antenna cut for the FM portion of 6 meters. It was terrible for local SSB work—most SSB and CW operators use horizontal antenna polarization on the VHF bands. During normal ground-wave operation you are at a big disadvantage if you operate with the opposite polarization. During long-distance band openings, it doesn't matter quite as much, but the vertical still seemed to be lacking in performance.

Why Not a Beam?

I live in a neighborhood where RFI/TVI/BMI (baby monitor interference) reports can begin just with the *installation* of a new antenna, let alone an actual transmission. Because of the desire to maintain a low antenna profile—plus my unwillingness to make the investment in a tower, beam and rotator—I decided to investigate other approaches to reasonable antenna performance for 6-meter SSB/CW operation.

What follows is the highlights of what I've found. I haven't had the opportunity to thoroughly check all of the antenna possibilities I will describe, but I've included the references and important information so *you* can try these antennas for yourself.

By the way, going to horizontal polarization has made a big difference in BMI so far—baby monitors use vertically polarized antennas!

The Long-Wire Antenna

We don't usually think of long-wire antennas for VHF applications, but they can be used on 6 meters almost as easily as on the HF bands. In fact, a wire is typically not considered "long" until it is several wavelengths long. At 6 meters a wire four wavelengths long is only about 75 feet—a length that will fit in many locations. According to *The ARRL Antenna Book*, an antenna four wavelengths long can have a gain over a dipole of approximately 3 dB (3 dBd) in some directions. The antenna can be fed at the end, or at a *current loop*. Because of matching considerations (I don't have a 6-meter antenna tuner) I chose to use the current-loop approach (see **Figure 1**). You could make the antenna longer and pick up more gain if you like. An antenna six wavelengths long should have a gain of almost 5 dB, and an antenna 10 wavelengths long should have a gain of approximately 7.5 dB.

Along with an increase in gain, there will be a change in the radiation pattern. You're familiar with the doughnut-shaped radiation pattern surrounding a half-wavelength dipole—that pattern breaks up into a multi-lobed pattern as the length of the antenna is increased. The bottom line is that you may end up with 3 dB gain in *some* directions with that four-wavelength long wire, but there will also be nulls (where the gain becomes *less* than that of a dipole) in other directions. With a fixed long-wire antenna, you take "pot luck" on what your gain will be in the direction of a station you hear—but if you hear him, you stand a fair chance of working him.

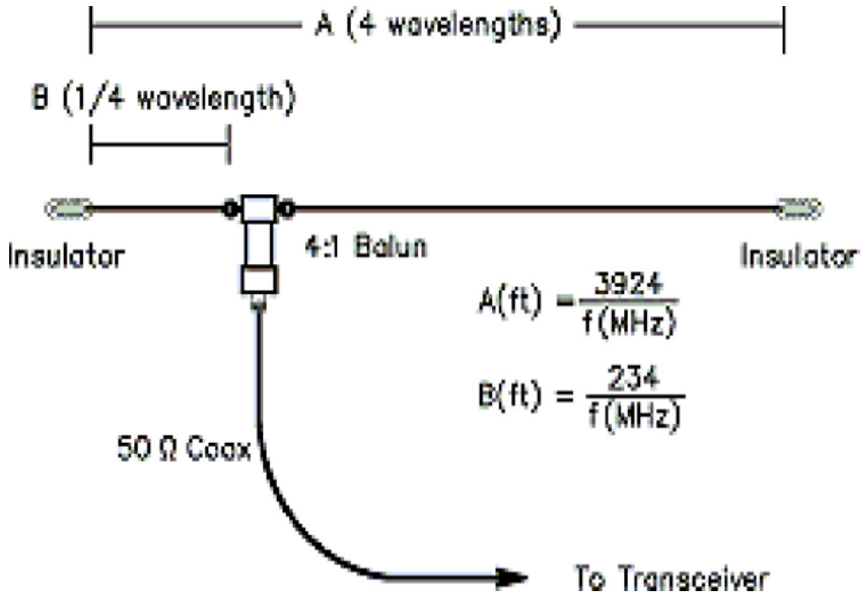

Figure 1—An off-center fed long wire antenna for 6 meters. It's basically just two pieces of wire linked by a 4:1 balun. Choose your antenna's "center frequency" (f) and cut length A using the formula shown. Mark the current node point—1/4 wavelength (B) from one end—and cut again. Cut the lengths of both sections a little longer than your calculations callfor, so you have a little surplus for adjustment purposes.

Building a Long Wire for 6 Meters

I used the formula 3924/f (where f = frequency in MHz) to determine the overall length of my four-wavelength long wire. That antenna would fit in my 80-foot space. I then determined the current-node point by using the formula 234/f, and feeding the antenna that distance from one end. The radiation impedance at that point is about 130 Ù. The resulting SWR, using a 4:1 balun

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) ***Antenna for...***

and 50-Ù cable, should be less than 2:1.

When you cut your wires, always make them a little longer than the formulas indicate. When you attach the wires to the insulators as shown in **Figure 1**, wrap the surplus length back on the wires. That way, if you need to lengthen the antenna, you can simply unwrap the extra length.

At the current node you can attach both wires to a commercially made 4:1 balun. Just make sure it is rated for use on 6 meters. (Two examples: The W2FMI-4:1-HBM200 made by Amidon Associates, PO Box 25867, Santa Ana, CA 92799; tel 714-850-4660; fax 714-850-1163. The Centaur baluns sold by Amateur Electronic Supply; tel 800-558-0411.) These baluns tend to be bulky and their weight might make your wire sag unacceptably. If this is the case, attach a run of 300-Ù ladder line at the current-node point. The line should be 1/2 wavelength at the frequency f. Snake the ladder line back to the 4:1 balun and go from there.

Long-Wire Antenna Performance

I've compared the performance of my 6-meter long wire to my 5/8-wavelength vertical during several band openings. The long-wire antenna often performed better! The most noticeable change occurred when I used the long wire for local communication. The difference was substantial. On some weaker signals switching to the vertical would make the signals disappear! My biggest thrill was working the only "double-hop" station I heard during the June VHF contest—and the rare DX of Sable Island!

MFJ Acquires Cushcraft

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises (www.mfjenterprises.com) announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies (www.lairdtech.com) effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue. The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

Source:
ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 31
August 7, 2009

(Continued from page 2) ***Repeater usage....***

"Round Robin". Imagine a round table where everyone has a chair. When passing a pot (for you high class folks a "dish") around the table you would hand it to the person to your left or right and they would do the same. (We will assume in this discussion perfect un-emptying containers). Basically the pot... er... dish would go clockwise or counter-clockwise till it came back to the person that started it off who would then set it back in the center of the table - or in my house back on the floor. (I don't have cats now so its OK.)

Of course, we know for real high class folks a waiter or staff member may carry the serving tray around the table. Since that metaphor does us no good here I am not going to discuss it further. If you do indeed have a servant talking on the radio for you they, not you, are probably reading this anyway... hmmm... OK.

The actual working of this scheme is called "rotation" - the token goes around and around. "Who is next in the rotation" is a clue to what is going on. "I've screwed up the rotation" is another common phrase thrown around. "Let's see if we can get a rotation going" is usually a sign to be quiet for a bit as chaos has been at hand.

In the world of repeaters the pot/dish could be called a "conversational token" and the holder of the token is the person who is talking or is about to talk on the repeater. Unlike a table, when a person is done with a turn they should explicitly pass the token to the next person. You can't, after all, dig your elbow into their ribs to get their attention before you shove a pot... er... thing at then. A waiter could go "ahem" gently to let one know he is there and waiting to serve... but we decided not to talk about that scenario.

In a perfect world this will work smoothly for any number of people as long as folks explicitly pass the token to someone else. In the real world... well... it can get funky when folks refuse to "play by the rules".

John Talipsky N3ACK
The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.
385 Madison Chase Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

(Continued from page 4) ***ARRRL QSO Party***

so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 12 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 14. Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up!

MEETING NOTICE - THURS SEPT 3, 2009